

In the claims: The claims are as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A system, comprising:

a) a knowledge base, for maintaining a generic risk record including a plurality of fields at least some of which have subjective or quantitative values for risk, with the subjective values synchronized to numerical values, and at least some of which have been determined as an average of corresponding subjective or quantitative risk values in completed projects or processes;

b) a data store of profiles, for maintaining a profile risk record associated with a particular profile for a particular project or process, and including the same plurality of fields as the generic risk record, the profile risk record for use in providing a risk assessment in the associated profile for the particular project or process; and

c) a risk processor, for updating at least one of the subjective or quantitative values of the generic risk record based on a corresponding field value in the profile risk record in the data store of profiles, by averaging into the at least one value of the generic risk record the corresponding field value in the profile risk record;

whereby at least some of the subjective or quantitative values of the generic risk record are refined over time based on values of the corresponding fields of the profile risk record for the particular project or process.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein some of the subjective or quantitative values are values of measuring fields input by the user, and others are values of calculated fields calculated by the system, and the system allows different modes of analysis in which the fields that are the measuring

fields differ.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the modes of analysis include:

a residual assessment mode, in which a user selects inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, and a value, for each control for the risk, for effectiveness in either preventing the risk or reducing the consequence of the risk, and the system then calculates residual levels of likelihood, consequence and risk rating for the risk;

an inherent assessment mode, in which a user selects residual values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, and a value, for each control for the risk, for effectiveness in either preventing the risk or in reducing the consequence of the risk, and the system then calculates the inherent levels of likelihood, consequence and risk rating for the risk; and

a controls self-assessment mode, in which a user selects inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, as well as residual values of likelihood and consequence for the risk, and the system then calculates the effectiveness of predetermined controls needed to either prevent the risk or to reduce the consequence of the risk.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the system can be used in different modes of use, and further wherein only some of the fields of the generic risk record or the profile risk record are required to be used in a risk management analysis, and which of the fields are required depends on the mode of use.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein both the generic risk record and the profile risk record each comprise:

a) a risk component, for indicating a risk, for indicating an inherent risk rating, and also for indicating a residual risk rating;

b) a cause component, for indicating the cause of the risk;

c) a consequence component, for indicating a particular consequence of the risk and an inherent and a residual cost of the particular consequence; and

d) a control component, for indicating a control, for indicating whether the control is corrective or preventive, and for indicating the effectiveness of the control.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use an inherent risk impact cost is aggregated over the inherent cost of each consequence of the risk.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use the residual likelihood is an aggregate calculation based on the effectiveness of each preventive control acting on an inherent likelihood.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use a residual risk impact cost is aggregated over the residual cost of each consequence of the risk.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a scripting facility for enabling a user to create a script directing how a risk management process is to be performed, the script indicating steps that can be used in performing risk analysis in any profile.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further wherein the risk processor also uses the generic risk record to provide initial values for the profile risk record, whereby the

profile risk record has initial values based on experience gained over time.

11. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

a) a step of maintaining in a knowledge base a generic risk record including a plurality of fields at least some of which have subjective or quantitative values for risk, with the subjective values synchronized to numerical values, and at least some of which have been determined as an average of corresponding subjective or quantitative risk values in completed projects or processes;

b) a step of maintaining in a data store of profiles a profile risk record associated with a particular profile for a particular project or process, and including the same plurality of fields as the generic risk record, the profile risk record for use in providing a risk assessment in the associated profile for the particular project or process; and

c) a step of updating at least one of the subjective or quantitative values of the generic risk record based on a corresponding field value in the profile risk record in the data store of profiles, by averaging into the at least one value of the generic risk record the corresponding field value in the profile risk record;

whereby at least some of the subjective or quantitative values of the generic risk record are refined over time based on values of the corresponding fields of the profile risk record for the particular project or process.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein some of the subjective or quantitative values are values of measuring fields input by the user, and others are values of calculated fields calculated by the system, and the method allows different

modes of analysis in which the fields that are the measuring fields differ.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the modes of analysis include:

a residual assessment mode, in which a user selects inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, and a value, for each control for the risk, for effectiveness in either preventing the risk or reducing the consequence of the risk, and the method then calculates residual levels of likelihood, consequence and risk rating for the risk;

an inherent assessment mode, in which a user selects residual values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, and a value, for each control for the risk, for effectiveness in either preventing the risk or in reducing the consequence of the risk, and the method then calculates the inherent levels of likelihood, consequence and risk rating for the risk; and

a controls self-assessment mode, in which a user selects inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk, as well as residual values of likelihood and consequence for the risk, and the method then calculates the effectiveness of predetermined controls needed to either prevent the risk or to reduce the consequence of the risk.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the method can be used in different modes of use, and further wherein only some of the fields of the generic risk record or the profile risk record are required to be used in a risk management analysis, and which of the fields are required depends on the mode of use.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein both the generic risk record and the profile risk record each

comprise:

a) a risk component, for indicating a risk, for indicating an inherent risk rating, and also for indicating a residual risk rating;

b) a cause component, for indicating the cause of the risk;

c) a consequence component, for indicating a particular consequence of the risk and an inherent and a residual cost of the particular consequence; and

d) a control component, for indicating a control, for indicating whether the control is corrective or preventive, and for indicating the effectiveness of the control.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein in one mode of use an inherent risk impact cost is aggregated over the inherent cost of each consequence of the risk.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein in one mode of use the residual likelihood is an aggregate calculation based on the effectiveness of each preventive control acting on an inherent likelihood.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein in one mode of use a residual risk impact cost is aggregated over the residual cost of each consequence of the risk.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of using a scripting facility to enable a user to create a script directing how a risk management process is to be performed, the script indicating steps that can be used in performing risk analysis in any profile.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further

wherein the risk processor also uses the generic risk record to provide initial values for the profile risk record, whereby the profile risk record has initial values based on experience gained over time.